

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 are pending. Claim 2 is allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kojima.

In the Response to Arguments section of the final Office action, the Office has kindly provided rationales as to why the claimed invention is still rendered anticipated. The detailed explanation is appreciated as it provides basis to identify areas of misunderstanding. Specifically, it is explained that:

Applicant's contends that Kojima or the German application No. 2247707 does not show or suggest a blade holder onto which is attached a linear slider. Examiner asserts that a reference anticipates a claimed invention when all the features are disclosed. In this instance case, in view of Kojima, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to have provide a blade holder at the vicinity of "13" supported via bearings "20a" and "20c" for the purpose of holding in position the chopper blade "8". Thereby, even that Fig. 6 does not specifically state that the chopper blade "8" is held by a blade holder wherein the blade holder is attached to the linear slider "6", it is deemed that a blade holder is holding in position the chopper blade "8", thereby providing a connection between the chopper blade "8" and the linear slider "6". For the reasons above, the grounds of rejections are deemed proper.

Therefore, it is apparent that the Office reduced the Applicant's contention to "Kojima or the German application No. 2247707 does not show or suggest a blade holder onto which is attached a linear slider." This is not the contention of the Applicant. It is rather the contention of the Applicant that the asserted prior art fails to disclose or teach "a linear guide rail connected to a linear slider wherein the linear slider is connected to the blade holder".

In rejecting the claimed invention, the outstanding Office action has specifically stated that “a guide unit via linear feeding crank mechanism “B1” for restricting motion of the blade holder such that the blade holder reciprocates only in a linear direction perpendicular to a conveyance plane.”

Regarding linear feeding crank mechanisms B1 and B2, Kojima in column 2 lines 32-36 has specifically stated that: “The linear feeding crank mechanism B1 is formed by the two spur gears 14a, 14b and the rotational axles 15a, 15b. The linear feeding crank mechanism B2 is formed by the two spur gears 14c, 14d and the rotational axles 15c, 15d.” These features are shown in Figures 2 and 4 of Kojima.

Therefore, from visual verification, it is clear that even though the end result is a linear feeding, the means of achieving this linear motion is through rotary motions of gears 14a, 14b, 14c, and 14d respectively about axes 15a, 15b, 15c and 15d.

In contradistinction, the present invention as shown by way of an example in Figure 1, the guide unit 5 is formed of at least one linear guide rail 19 and a linear slider 18. These features are distinctly different from the asserted prior art.

With regard to Figure 6 of Kojima, it specifically discloses as shown in Figure 6 that a connecting rod 5 is connected to the crank 4 with a pin, and a slider 6 is connected to the connecting rod 5 by a pivot, and a linear guide 7.

However, in the present invention, as clearly shown in Figure 1, the link 17, which the Office seems to correspond with connecting rod 5 of German application No. 2247707, is connected to blade holder 16. Nowhere in either Kojima or the German application No. 2247707

is there any disclosure or teaching of a blade holder onto which is attached either a connecting rod 5, a slider 6 or a guide 7.

In the Amendment filed on November 18, 2003, to ensure the above-identified patentably distinguishing features are reflected in the claimed invention, independent claim 1 was newly amended to recite:

“at least one guide unit with at least a linear guide rail connected to a linear slider wherein the linear slider is connected to the blade holder for restricting motion of the blade holder such that the blade holder reciprocates only in a linear direction perpendicular to a conveyance plane along which the signature is conveyed.”

By so amending, the claimed invention is believed to be placed in condition for allowance.

It is well settled that:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element *as set forth in the claim* is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc.*, 848 F.2d 1567, 7 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988).”

Should the Office continue to assert that the claimed invention, as previously amended, is still anticipated by the asserted prior art, a citation of where each and every claimed feature, either as column number and line number, or figure number and reference numeral, or a combination thereof, as disclosed in the asserted prior art is respectfully requested. Specifically, the Applicant respectfully request special attention be paid to the claimed feature and claimed element of “a linear guide rail connected to a linear slider wherein the linear slider is connected to the blade holder for restricting motion of the blade holder such that the blade holder reciprocates only in a linear direction perpendicular to a conveyance plane along which the signature is conveyed.”

Should the Office determine that any claimed feature is not disclosed in the asserted prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is thereby not anticipated by the asserted prior art. Allowance of the claimed invention is then respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claim 2 is noted with appreciation.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned remarks, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application, at an early date, is respectfully requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment associated to this application to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lau", written in a cursive style.

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